

Student
Worksheet

FIELD WORK AMONG THE IRISH TRAVELERS

DIRECTIONS: Using information from the reading, answer the following questions.

1. How did the author gain entrance into the Irish Traveler community? Why were the Travelers reluctant to allow an outsider access into their daily lives?

2. Describe the background and history of the Irish Travelers. How did the Travelers adapt traditional occupations and customs to their new life in America?

3. The author noted that Travelers are “rapidly changing people.” Describe the changes and challenges faced by the Travelers in twentieth century America. How have the Travelers adapted to these changes?

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4. Describe the Traveler Cant. What is the purpose of this method of speaking?

USE YOUR SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION: Imagine a sociologist moved into your home to study you and your culture by participant observation. As a research subject, what would you find most difficult about this type of experiment? What are some problems that might occur for the researcher during a participant observation study?

TOPIC FOR RESEARCH: The Irish Travelers are one of several groups in the United States categorized as “gypsies.” Research the history and customs of these nomadic people.
